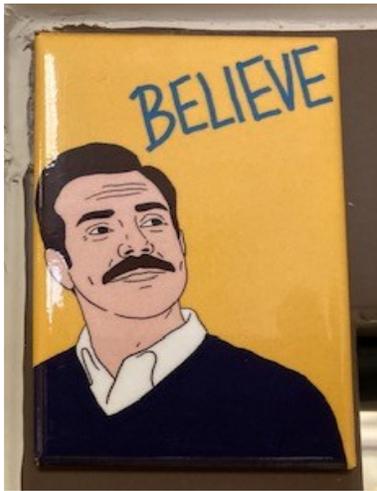


 KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"A Sanctuary in the City... Living Faith"



“So I've been hearing this phrase y'all got over here that I ain't too crazy about. 'It's the hope that kills you.' Y'all know that? I disagree, you know? I think it's the lack of hope that comes and gets you. See, I believe in hope. I believe in belief.”

Jason Sudeikis, *Ted Lasso*

MARCH 6, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

THE GATHERING

*Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here—with whatever joys, questions,
or tears you bring today—as we worship God, who welcomes us all!
You are invited to listen for God's Spirit speaking to you through the music of the Prelude,
as we prepare our hearts for worship.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.
Let us worship God.

PRELUDE "Prelude & Fugue in B Minor BWV 544—Prelude" J.S. Bach

* DOXOLOGY #607 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Old Hundredth
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

* OPENING RESPONSES

God says: "I will love you and lead you through the wilderness, and speak to your heart."
Blessed be God, forever! The world belongs to God— the earth and all His people!
How good and how lovely it is to live together in unity and holy purpose.
**Love and faith come together; justice and peace will embrace.
Grace will spring from the ground, and hope lean down from heaven.**

* HYMN #250 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" Promise

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Have mercy on us, O God of all life, in your steadfast love.
Amid your desire for deep and inner truth, we are well aware of our misdeeds:
when we listen to other voices and our hearts stray into selfish ways that fail to satisfy;
when our lips do not praise your grace, and others hear more judgment than joy;
when we build up personal pleasure, to the ruin of community and abuse of creation.
Purify in us all fault that separates us from you. Teach us again your holy wisdom.
Put a new and right spirit within us, and restore to us the joy of your salvation.**

Prayer continues in silence.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Be Still, My Soul”

arr. Daniel Bird

Be still, my soul, the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; thy best, thy heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord;
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed, we shall meet at last.

Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul, the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still...Be still...Be still.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #716 “God Whose Giving Knows No Ending” Beach Spring
**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door;
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER (*Continuing to pray in unison*)
**Generous Giver of New Life, you call us to believe and equip us to serve.
Receive this offering of substance, along with all our devotion of heart, time, and effort.
Guide us with your grace in our use, that all people and creation
may share the abundant feast of life, in the name of Christ. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The table is now made ready...

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy ... we join our hearts with your faithful throughout
earth, in heaven and of every time and place, who sing to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS #569

Oliver



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Come among us now, O God in Christ ... empower us to share your life with the world, loving and serving in the way you teach us to pray and sing together:

At the direction of the cantor, the congregation is invited to sing the Lord's prayer.

**Our father
 in heaven,
 holy is your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
 your will be done
 on earth
 as in heaven**

**Give us today
 our daily bread;
 forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us**

**Save us from the time
 of trial,
 and deliver us
 from evil.**

**For the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory are yours, forever,
 for ever,
 and ever.**

**Our father
 in heaven,
 holy is your name.**

COMMUNION

To receive the elements: beginning with the front rows, please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by a side aisle. Approach the ministers with your hands cupped to receive the bread (all is gluten-free). Then pick up your cup and return to your seat. Upon receiving the Sacrament, you may wish to respond by saying, "Amen". If you prefer to remain seated and receive the elements, please raise your hand, and communion will be served to you in your pew.

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Holy God, we praise your love, by which we share the one bread and one cup, and become one together in Christ. Sustained by communion in your Spirit, send us to continue Jesus' work of salvation in our age—with our hands, feet, voices, wealth, and will—until your reign of peace is complete. Amen.

THE SENDING

- * HYMN #320 “The Church of Christ in Every Age” Wareham
- * BENEDICTION (*Our congregational response is “Alleluia! Amen!”*)
- POSTLUDE “Prelude in B Minor BWV 544—Fugue” J.S. Bach

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Meredith Alspach

Acolyte

Gary Zandt

Reader

Angela Van Heest

Greeters

Annie Leong

Sound

Sound Team members

Music

Adult Choir
Daphne Westbury, Flute
Joseph Sablan, Soloist
Michael Palmer, Director
Autumn, Organist

The flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God
by Paul and Aedín Clements in memory of Paul's parents,
Mollie and Jessie Clements.

In this bulletin, “Holy, Holy, Holy,” a traditional liturgical text with music by Curt Oliver (1997), are duplicated for one-time use under the substitute provision of copyright law from *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (© 2013 Westminster John Knox Pres), of which First Presbyterian Church owns sufficient copies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID UPDATE

Session and the Health Ministry Committee have closely followed CDC recommendations regarding pandemic restrictions for the past two years. Under recently revised metrics for community spread, Kalamazoo County is classified Medium, with guidelines as follows:

- If you are at high risk for severe illness, consult a healthcare provider about your need to wear a mask, and other precautions .
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, and get tested if you have symptoms.
- People with symptoms, a positive test, or known exposure to someone with COVID-19 should follow CDC guidelines for self-isolation.

Following these guidelines, Session no longer mandates mask wearing in our building. We urge doing so if any of the above considerations are true for you. Anyone is always welcome to wear a mask at any time—it remains a leading way to prevent infection. By consensus of participants, the choir will continue to wear masks while singing, as will people in the nursery and Sunday School. Please respect those whose circumstances may differ from your own.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting is today, in the Sanctuary after Worship. Please join us for a celebration of our church life, as we share the successes and joys of the year. Childcare will be provided in the nursery for infants and toddlers .

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY

The children will stay in Worship to be a part of Communion Sunday. Families are welcome to sit in the Prayground area. The nursery will be open for any children under age three.

YOUTH GROUP TODAY

The 7-12 grade Youth Group will meet here today from 5:00—7:00 p.m. The 4-6th grade group also meets here today from 4:00-5:00 p.m.!

WANTED: BACKDOOR GREETERS

Looking for a way to get involved with the Church? We are seeking individuals who would be interested in scheduled or on-call assignments to staff the reception desk at the South entrance to the Church. For more information, contact J.A. Lewellen:

jal@fpckzoo.org or 269-344-0119, ext. 205.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVING WITH THE PSALMS

Tuesdays, March 1 – April 12

Noon, meeting in the Library

Pastor Seth Weeldreyer will lead reflection on John Bell’s book, *Living with the Psalms*. Bell writes: “I have developed an affection for poems that Jesus knew and quoted which, for reasons of their bleakness as well as their grandeur, have blessed the most unsuspecting of people. ... If God is God, and Scripture is deep, we should not expect the intellect to be the only conduit to understanding. ... I now believe emotion, experience, and imagination are also tools by which we can discover a relationship between our lives and Biblical texts.” Along with a six-week outline in the back of the book for sampling the Psalms in daily prayer, here’s a schedule for our discussion:

March 1	Preface – Chapter 3	March 29	Chapters 9 – 11
March 8	Chapters 4 – 5	April 5	Chapters 12 – 14
March 22	Chapters 6 – 8	April 12	Chapters 15 – 17

You can find the book at Amazon. Please contact Seth if you have any questions.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: AT ONE WITH THE ATONEMENT

Thursdays, beginning March 10, at 9:30 a.m. in Rooms 314/315, and

Sundays, beginning March 13, after Worship, in Room 300

Salvation is a blessing, but it can be overwhelming to try to figure out – what happened on the cross? What does that mean for my life, for the world? Each lesson explores a different theology of atonement on the cross. The aim is not to find the one right theology and pick apart the others, but to explore different ideas Christians have had over time. Each lesson includes scripture verses that support the different understandings of the cross. This class will be led by the Rev. Chrissy Westbury.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM “JUST SANCTUARY”

“Blessed are those who act justly; who always do what is right”

- Psalm 106:3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!

- ◆ There are several endowments that have been established at First Presbyterian Church, with portions designated to be utilized for scholarships and/or grants.
- ◆ You are considered eligible to apply for a scholarship if you or your family have been active in the spiritual and community life of FPC Kalamazoo.
- ◆ Individuals who are expecting to continue their education beyond high school OR those who are already students beyond the high school level, may apply .

Scholarship applications are due March 15.

MARTHA CIRCLE **Wednesday, March 9**

Martha Circle will meet in the Gathering Place at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9. All women are invited to join us for fellowship and study. Our study of the women in the family tree of Jesus continues with Rahab - the woman who hid the Israeli spies in Jericho, thereby saving her family and becoming a part of Jesus' lineage.

Questions? Contact Elaine Johns.

emjohns513@aol.com

269-323-7395

WEDNESDAY NOON PRAYER

... continues! Join us in the Sanctuary for worship!

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Our Communications Coordinator, Hannah, has moved and is now working entirely remotely. This means that you will no longer be able to call her at the church, but you can still contact her via email. If you have any questions, contact her at **hannahf@fpckzoo.org**

CELEBRATE THE VISION

Thanks, Richard Aldrich, for providing the soup and dessert for Celebrate the Vision this week!

CELEBRATE THE VISION VOLUNTEER COOKS NEEDED!

Can you help make soup or dessert for Celebrate the Vision? For more information or to sign up, contact Meredith.

Mereditha@fpckzoo.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS: FULL TO THE BRIM: AN EXPANSIVE LENT © A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, this weekly devotional follows the Revised Common Lectionary (Year C) through Easter Sunday. As you journey through the devotional at your own pace, you will find scriptures, poems, art, reflections, and hymns that are filled with promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us. Printed Devotional Booklets will be available in the Narthex and the Gathering Place. If you'd like a digital version emailed to you, contact Pastor Chrissy.

YOUTH MISSION FUNDRAISER

The YOUTH MISSION team is selling BUTTER BRAIDS!!!! You can place your order with one of the youth or Meredith immediately following worship, or a sign-up outside Meredith's office! Thank you for your support of our youth!

Also, mark your calendars for the Youth Mission Silent Auction & Game Night on March 20 from 4-6:00 p.m. in the dining room! Our youth mission expenses have increased dramatically (mainly driven by the high cost of rental vehicles) and we need your help to meet our funding goal! If you have an item or service to donate to our auction, please let Meredith know!

DEACONS' PRAYERS

One of the great gifts of a community of faith is that we take time and intention to pray for one another. This week, we pray for **Diane White** and the parish group listed below, that they may feel God's presence and power in their lives. Next week, in the same way, we'll pray for another Deacon and parish group.

Arwady Family
Martin Baker
Bruce Birkel
Marcia Cook
Emily Curtis
Gary and Ann Fergeman
Alfred and Sandra Edwards García

Joseph Jack and Cindy Yoder
Lee-Ruff Family
Lozeau Family
Lester Roberts
Tony Tyler
Deb Weurding
Raymond Wicks

TENTATIVE WEEKLY CALENDAR

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Today, March 6 (Communion Served)

- 8:30 a.m. Reading Aloud, *Small Conference Room*
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Gathering Place*
- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Partners, *Room 301*
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*
- 11:15 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting, *Sanctuary*
- 4:00 p.m. 4-6th Grade Youth Group, *Kalamazoo FPC*
- 5:00 p.m. 7-12th Grade Youth Group, *Kalamazoo FPC*

Monday, March 7

- 6:30 p.m. Congregational Deacons, *ZOOM*
- 7:30 p.m. Communications Committee Meeting, *ZOOM*

Tuesday, March 8

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship, *Archives*
- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, *Archives*
- 12:00 p.m. Living with the Psalms, *Library*
- 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting, *Place TBD*
- 6:00 p.m. Green P's, *Library*
- 7:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee Meeting, *ZOOM*

Wednesday, March 9

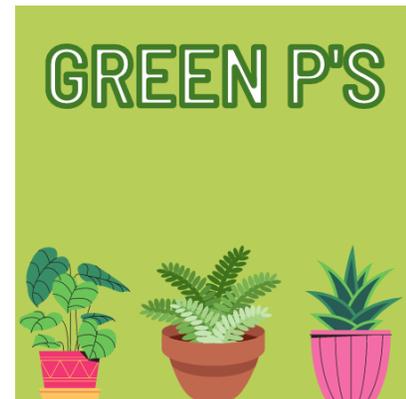
- 12:00 p.m. Wednesday Noon Prayer, *Sanctuary*
- 3:00 pm. Martha Circle, *Gathering Place*
- 5:00 p.m. Celebrate the Vision, *Outside*
- 7:00 p.m. Outreach Meeting, *Archives*

Thursday, March 10

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study, *Room 301*
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 6:00 p.m. Property and Maintenance Meeting, *Library*
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Gathering Place*
- 7:00 p.m. Faith Formation Meeting, *ZOOM*

Sunday, March 13

- 8:30 a.m. Reading Aloud, *Small Conference Room*
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal, *Gathering Place*
- 10:00 a.m. Worship, *Sanctuary*
- 11:15 a.m. Lenten Bible Study, *Room 301*
- 5:00 p.m. 7-12th Grade Youth Group, *FPC Richland*





The Chancel Guild invites you to purchase Easter flowers in memory of or in honor of someone whom you hold close to your heart or want to show appreciation for. The flowers will be placed in the church on Easter Sunday, displaying the hope of new life and joy of the Easter season.

Fill out the form below and mail/deliver it to the church office.
Make the check payable to "First Presbyterian Church".

The order deadline is Sunday, April 10.

A list of the names or those recognized along with their donors will be printed in the Worship bulletin on Easter Sunday. Please take a plant home after the service and continue to enjoy its beauty.

I want ____ plants (\$20 each). Enclosed check for \$_____

This plant/plants are dedicated to the glory of God and given...

in memory of/in honor of (circle one)

My name and phone number

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO
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www.kzoofirstpres.org
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The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer, Pastor, x202
The Reverend Chrissy Westbury, Associate Pastor, x203
Meredith Alspach, Director of Youth and Families, x208
Louise Taylor, Financial Coordinator, x206
Hannah Foreman, Communications Coordinator
J.A. Lewellen, Operations Coordinator, x205
Michael Palmer, Interim Director of Music
Autumn, Organist
Shawn Smith, Building Superintendent, x213
Custodians

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autumn@fpckzoo.org
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Library
South Lobby Receptionists, x221

Randy Randt
Logan McCafferty
library@fpckzoo.org
Bruce Birkel, Bob Brush
Sandy Sinotte, Deb Weurding
elizabeth.candido@kzoo.edu
amber.nettleton@gmail.com
ucmkrking@yahoo.com

The Reverend Dr. Liz Hakken Candido, Parish Associate
The Reverend Amber Nettleton, Parish Associate
The Reverend Kathleen Robertson King, Parish Associate and United Campus Ministry Pastor

UPCOMING WORSHIP— 10:00 a.m.

March 13
Second Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Kathleen Robertson King
Isaiah 58:1-12; Luke 13:31-35

March 20
Third Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Chrissy Westbury
Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9

March 27
Fourth Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Dr. Seth Weeldreyer
2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Grounded in living faith, receiving diversity as a gift, we seek to reflect Christ's light in God's world. Continually discerning God's vision of grace and peace, we share inspirational worship, spiritual nurture, compassionate service to others, and the pursuit of justice—all to the glory of God.